REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 are pending, claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 being independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are amended by this response.

Prior Art Rejections

1.   § 103 Rejection: Haeberli

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Haeberli (USP 5,587,596). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a printing service system comprising a printing service apparatus that provides a service of printing a composite image generated from an image and characters. The printing service apparatus is connected to a user terminal via a network and includes a template storage means for storage templates used for generating the composite image. The printing service apparatus reads a stored template according to a request from the user terminal and sends the template to the user terminal, which inputs the characters to be used for generating the composite image according to the received template and sends such characters to the printing service apparatus. The printing service apparatus further comprises composite image generation means for generating the composite image from the characters received from the user terminal and the image according to the template, and sends generated composite image data to the user terminal. The printing service apparatus also sends the user terminal instruction page data, which enables the user to "specify enlargement of only the characters in the composite image." The printing service apparatus generates enlargement data of the characters specified by the user terminal and sends such enlargement data to the user terminal.

DRA/NYM/kcm

By viewing enlarged characters in the generated composite image, the user is able to confirm that the character data is correct, (e.g., in the case where the printing service apparatus has performed Japanese character conversion) without enlarging other image information in the composite image (e.g., copyrighted image data). See e.g., page 11, lines 1-16.

In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner cites Figures 12a, 12b and the description at col. 17, lines 8-27 of Haeberli as allegedly corresponding to the claimed image data sending means, instruction page sending means, and enlargement sending means. Applicant notes, however, that this section of Haeberli describes a preview image downloaded to the user terminal, which allows the user to change size for a new preview image. Applicant submits that this image resizing does not correspond to the claimed feature of specifying only character enlargement at the user terminal, generating enlargement data of characters in the previously-generated composite image and generating enlargement data of the specified characters for sending to the user terminal. Haeberli only addresses enlargement of entire images, and does not discuss, teach, or otherwise suggest extracting text or character information from an image for enlargement separately from the rest of the image.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Haeberli fails to fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness of independent claim 1 or any claim depending therefrom. Independent claims 3, 5 and 7 define over Haeberli based on similar reasoning. In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

DRA/NYM/kcm

2.   § 103 Rejection: Haeberli - Ogata

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Haeberli in view of Ogata et al. (USP 4,827,349). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth on page 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner relies on Ogata as allegedly pertaining to the incremental features of dependent claims 2, 4, 6, and 8. The Examiner's reliance on Ogata, however, fails to make up for the deficiencies of Haeberli discussed above respect to the independent claims. Therefore, the asserted combination of Haeberli and Ogata (assuming these references may be combined, which Applicant does not admit) fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness of any pending claim.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.
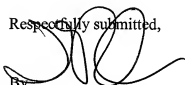
<div align="center">Conclusion</div>

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

DRA/NYM/kcm

　　　　If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

　Dated:　July 15, 2008　　　　　　　　　Respectfully submitted,

　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　By
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　D. Richard Anderson
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Registration No.: 40,439
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　8110 Gatehouse Road
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Suite 100 East, P.O. Box 747
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Falls Church, Virginia　22040-0747
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　(703) 205-8000
　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　Attorney for Applicant